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COMET C/2009 Q5 (McNAUGHT)

R. H. McNaught reports his discovery of a comet with a circular 18″ coma on CCD images obtained with the 0.5-m Uppsala Schmidt telescope (discovery tabulated below); five stacked 30-s images obtained after moonset on Aug. 31.7–31.8 UT show a 0′.4 coma and a 50″ tail in p.a. 285°. After posting on the Minor Planet Center's 'NEOCP' webpage, other CCD astrometrists have noted the object's cometary appearance. S. Foglia reports that fifteen stacked 60-s CCD images taken by R. Holmes (Charleston, IL, U.S.A., 0.61-m telescope) reveal a round coma of diameter 10″ with a 30″ tail in p.a. 260°. Fifteen stacked 120-s unfiltered exposures taken remotely on Sept. 1.3 by E. Guido and G. Sostero with a 0.25-m reflector near Mayhill, NM, U.S.A., show a compact coma of diameter ~ 12″ and a broad tail nearly 20″ long in p.a. 255°. H. Sato (Tokyo, Japan, remotely using a Rent-A-Scope 0.25-m reflector near Mayhill on Sept. 1.35) finds a diffuse coma of diameter 8″–20″ and no tail. Frames taken by R. Miles with the Haleakala 2.0-m 'Faulkes Telescope North' on Sept. 1.6 show a diffuse 15″ coma elongated toward p.a. 285°.

2009 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Mag.	*Observer*
Aug. 31.63470	$1^h29^m04^s.36$	$-17^\circ26'52''.9$	17.0	McNaught

The available astrometry, the following preliminary parabolic orbital elements, and an ephemeris appear on *MPEC* 2009-R02.

$$T = \text{2010 Mar. 11.218 TT} \qquad q = 1.55732\ \text{AU} \qquad \left.\begin{array}{l}\omega = 293^\circ.151\\ \Omega = 160.070\\ i = 40.823\end{array}\right\}2000.0$$

COMETS C/2009 D7 AND C/2009 D8 (SOHO)

Further to *IAUC* 9059, additional presumed comets have been found on SOHO website images. C/2009 D7 was bright (mag ~ 4) with a short tail in LASCO C3 images, while it showed a short tail and faded quickly in C2 images; this comet was also detected in STEREO COR2-A and COR2-B images with a tail ~ 0°.3 long. C/2009 D8 was slightly elongated, small, and stellar in apperance (mag ~ 7, but it faded rapidly).

Comet	2009 UT	α_{2000}	δ_{2000}	Inst.	F	*MPEC*
C/2009 D7	Feb. 26.029	$23^h09^m.7$	$-10^\circ31'$	C3/2*	MU	2009-N01
C/2009 D8	26.129	22 42.2	− 7 03	C2	BZ	2009-N01

2009 September 1 *Daniel W. E. Green*